



May 6, 2019

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach  
Members of the Long Beach City Council

Dear Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council,

We hope you're well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding the "Compassion Saves Policy Direction" proposed for the city's animal shelter. On behalf of our thousands of Long Beach members and supporters, thank you for proposing to ensure that the city shelter remain open to all animals who require refuge in the community with principle number three of the plan: "Ensure LBACS remains open admission so that every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care."

Regarding principle number five ("Foster a culture of data transparency, ethical decision-making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration with the community"), we hope the city will consider requiring that the shelter share the following data, at a minimum, on a regular basis:

1. The number of cats released to groups that subsequently sterilized and abandoned them
2. The locations where such cats were abandoned
3. The number and locations of complaints involving cats
4. The number and types of animals taken to the facility for admittance but not admitted and the reasons for the rejections
5. A list of groups to which animals were transferred, including up-to-date inspection reports from local animal-control agencies, veterinary affidavits, and other appropriate screening documents
6. The number of adopted animal returns and the reasons for them

We ask that the city not measure or compare the invaluable services provided by its animal-services department to the statistics of others, as is suggested in the proposal's discussion: "These measures include a reduction of euthanasia cases with live release rates that will make LBACS comparable to cities such as San Jose and Sacramento, among others."<sup>1</sup> Every community is different, and each animal is an individual who deserves to be treated as such, rather than as a mere statistic.

In 2013, the city of Sacramento announced that its shelter was full and was not accepting lost, homeless, or unwanted cats. Last summer, the county's Bradshaw Animal Shelter stopped accepting cats and reported that its cages were filled with 337 cats, many of whom were on a waiting list to be sterilized before they were to be abandoned throughout the community.

<sup>1</sup>Long Beach Animal Care Services, "Compassion Saves Policy Direction," 7 May 2019  
<<https://longbeach.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7191170&GUID=EB0E720A-EB25-4AB6-8C4C-09E77CF178F3>>.

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We support principle number four of the plan: "Support innovative spay and neuter programs to help control the pet homelessness crisis." The only humane and sustainable way to reduce the need to euthanize animals at public animal shelters is to prevent them from being born into a world in which millions are already homeless.

Thank you for your dedication to protecting Long Beach's animals and residents. Please let us know if PETA can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Lynn Chagrin".

Teresa Lynn Chagrin  
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